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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 220674 TOSEC 260107

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ORIGIN SS-15

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 220674 TOSEC 260107

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 11965 ACTION SECSTATE
TEL AVIV DTD 04 SEP

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 11965

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, IS, EG
SUBJECT: ISRAELI HARASSMENT OF AMOCO DRILLING OPERATIONS

DEPT PLEASE PASS USEDEL SECRETARY

REF: STATE 220189 (TOSEC 260077)

1. I HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH (2200 LOCAL) WITH ROSS CRAIG OF AMOCO
WHO ELABORATED ON REPORT PARA 1 REFTEL AS FOLLOWS.

2. AT ABOUT 1430 LOCAL ISRAELI REFUELING VESSEL REFUELED
ISRAELI GUNBOATS. HALF HOUR LATER ISAELI GUNBOATS AGAIN CAME OUT
AND BEGAN SHOOTING UP THE BUOYS AROUND PLATFORM 6. ACCORDING
TO CRAIG, PLATFORM 6 IS ABOUT ON MEDIAN LINE AND BUOYS ARE ABOUT
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1800 TO 2500 FEET AWAY FROM PLATFORM AND MARK ANCHORS. ISRAELI

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GUNBOATS ALSO SHOT UP BUOY AT 304.1 SITE AND AMOCO HAS THIS
CONFIRMED BY ONE OF ITS PEOPLE WHO JUST CAME INTO CAIRO FROM AREA.

3. AMOCO DOES NOT RPT NOT KNOW HOW MANY BUOYS ISRAELIS HIT.
SEAS ARE HEAVY AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO TELL. HOWEVER, RICHOCHETTING
OF BULLETS GREATLY ALARMED PEOPLE ON PLATFORM, WHICH PROMOTED AMOCO
TO EVACUATE MOST OF CREW OF PLATFORM 6 (RIG 28) AND OF
ESTRALITA ON RAMADAN 5 PLATFORM, LOCATED ABOUT 1500 FEET WEST OF
PLATFORM 6.
FIVE PEOPLE WERE LEFT ABOARD PLAFORM AND 12 ON ESTRALITA.
AMOCO WAS ALSO PREPARING EVACUATE PEOPLE FROM TWO OTHER PLATFORM RIGS
IN
GENERAL AREA, BUT ULTIMATLY DECIDED NOT TO DO SO WHEN ISRAELI
FIRING STOPPPED.

4. ALTHOUGH EGYPTIAN GUNBOATS WERE IN RAS SHUKAIR WHEN ISRAELIS
STARTED FIRING, THEY SUBSEQUENTLY MADE TWO SORTIES INTO
AREA BETWEEN 1500 AND 1800. AMOCO WORKED ON MINPET HILAL TO
GET EGYPTIAN GUNBOATS WITHDRAWN AND LAST ONE LEFT AREA
AROUND 1800 LOCAL. AT PRESENT ALL IS QUIET.

5. CRAIG SAYS AMOCO HAS DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO SEND MARINER BACK
TO 304.1 FOR TIME BEING. INSTEAD, WITH HILAL'S APPROVAL, MARINER WILL

OPERATE IN JULY 25 FIELD. AMOCO WANTS TO LET SITUATION COOL FOR
A FEW DAYS TO DETERMINE WHAT CAN BE WORKED OUT.

6. MY EFFORTS CONTACT GAMASY THIS EVENING HAVE THUS
FAR BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. HE IS NOT AT HOME OR IN HIS OFFICE.
WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS CONTACT HIM.
EILTS UNQTE ROBINSON

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